

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 1753**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Peter BAETS

Group Art Unit: 1753

Application No.: 10/693,922

Examiner: A. PHASGE

Filed: October 28, 2003

Docket No.: 117622

For: METHOD OF SEPARATING MULTIVALENT IONS AND LACTATE IONS FROM  
A FERMENTATION BROTH

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the April 6, 2006, Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Phasge in the June 8 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

**I. Claim Rejections Under §102**

The Office Action rejects claims 12-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,331,236 to Mani (Mani 236) and also rejects claims 12-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,221,225 to Mani (Mani 225). Because the disclosures